

FISCAL NOTE
SB 477 - HB 1535

March 21, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Allows full-time public school teachers to attend one course per term at any state supported institution of higher education or any area vocational-technical school without paying tuition charges, maintenance fees, student activity fees or registration fees as follows:

- Enrollment privileges may be limited or denied on an individual basis according to space availability and shall be on a first-come, first-served basis. Tuition paying students would not be denied enrollment because of public school teacher enrollment.
- The number of students permitted to attend classes beyond the limits established by this bill or the general appropriations act shall be discounted from the effects of the higher education funding formula. Any reimbursements to the state-supported colleges, universities or area vocational-technical schools for such enrollments shall be limited to those funds specifically appropriated for that purpose and would be limited to assessed charges and fees of enrollment.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

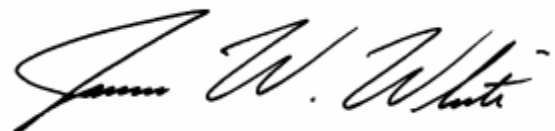
Increase State Expenditures - \$6,982,000

Assumptions:

- Eligible teachers will use the fee waiver to complete the required coursework for recertification. This will require an estimated 10% (5,659) of all active teachers to take one 3-semester hour course each year. Therefore, 5,659 teachers with an average fee waiver cost of \$431.33 each will result in an expenditure of approximately \$2,441,000.
- Eligible teachers who are pursuing graduate degrees will use the fee waiver to cover one 3-hour course each summer. Assumes an estimated 5,659 teachers would waive a total of 16,976 semester hours or a total of 1132 FTE at an average state support cost per FTE student of \$5,571, resulting in an expenditure of approximately \$4,541,000 with a total cost of the program of approximately \$6,981,000.
- The teachers eligible to use such fee waiver will be less to the extent funds appropriated for this purpose are not sufficient to meet the needs of all teachers electing to take such courses.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director